



DSRM: Using POWER to Reduce Injury and Job Time Loss

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The President has established a four-year Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Reemployment (POWER) Initiative, covering fiscal years 2011-2014. POWER will extend a previous initiative—Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment (SHARE)—while setting more aggressive performance targets, encouraging the collection and analysis of data on the causes and consequences of frequent or severe injury and illness, and prioritizing safety and health management programs that were effective in the past.

Indian Affairs' goal is to reduce injury and illness total case rates and injury and illness lost time case rates. Recent program evaluations have found that Indian Affairs field locations poorly prepare job hazard analysis before undertaking work tasks and are lax in ensuring that staff receive training related to their job descriptions (training for facilities staff such as Lock Out/Tag Out, Trench Safety or Confined Space as required by OSHA). Also field location managers are not emphasizing that once-injured employees should return to work in a timely manner and perform light-duty functions temporarily before assuming full duties again.

In FY 2011, Indian Affairs did not meet its required goals of a four percent annual decrease in total cases rates and lost time case rates for injury and illness. Indian Affairs showed a five percent and 10 percent increase, respectively. To meet the challenge of lowering these rates, Indian Affairs has developed a Safety and Health Strategic Three-Year Action Plan. Division of Safety and Risk Management Safety and Occupational Health Manager Paul Holley said a likely approach to meeting the plan's goals will be an increase in required online safety training via DOI Learn, in both specialized training and in general management training regarding safety and injury/illness lost time.



Proper trenching safety procedures were utilized at Flandreau Indian Boarding School.